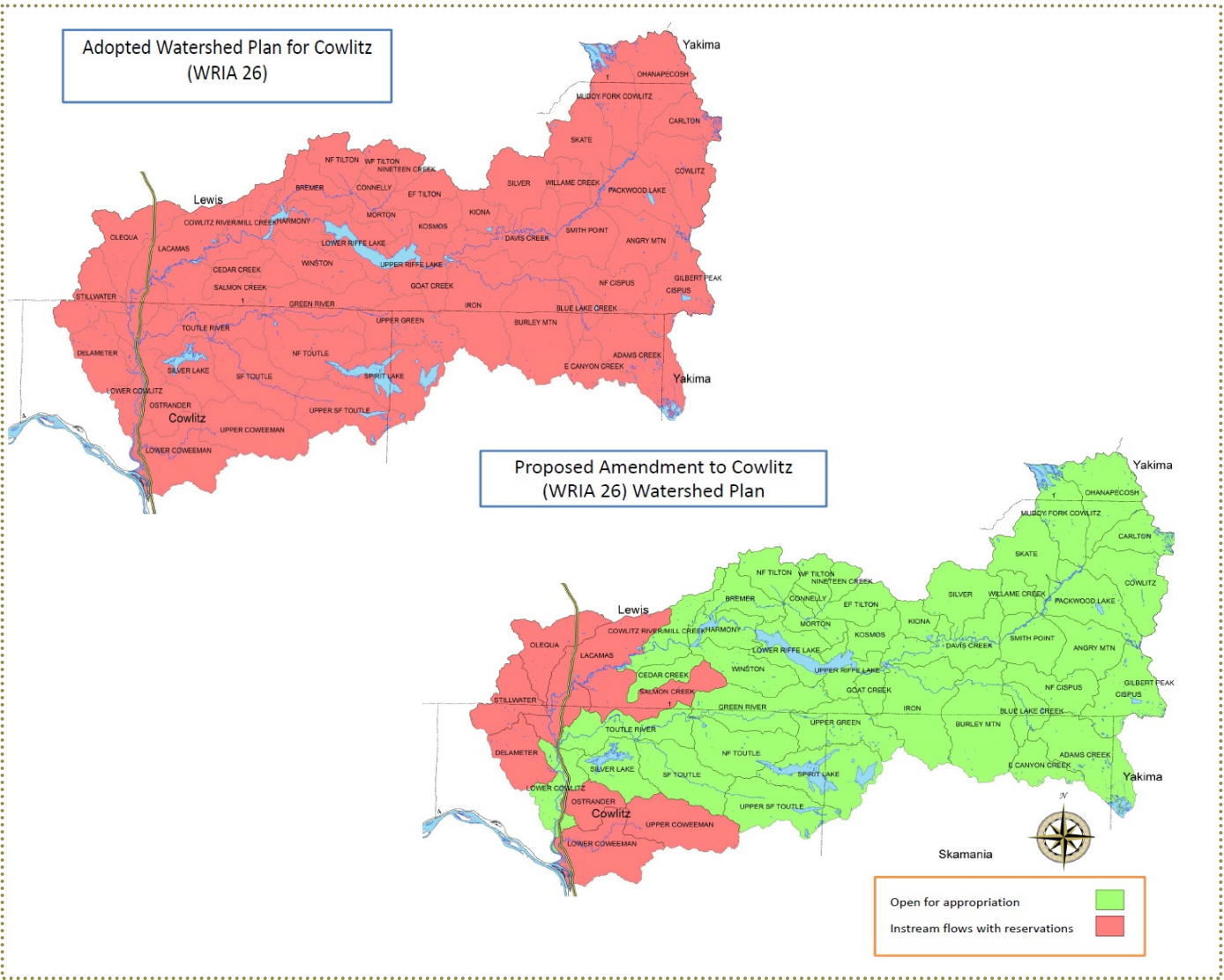


2006 MANAGEMENT PLAN  
Water Supply & Stream Flow Provisions

The Watershed Management Plan adopted in 2006 recommended that all subbasins within the Cowlitz River Basin be closed to further water withdrawals beyond specific reservations of water to meet the future needs cities, water districts, communities, farms, rural domestic wells and other beneficial uses. It further recommended that minimum instream flows be established for 10 rivers and streams. None of the proposed recommendations would affect existing water rights or rural domestic/permit exempt wells.

*Statistic: Planning Unit is recommending a 65 percent increase in the water reserved for the future needs of Lower Cowlitz cities, communities, homes, and farms in the Lower Cowlitz River Basin.*



2013 MANAGEMENT PLAN  
Proposed Revisions

In response to concerns raised by the public, the Planning Unit reviewed the Cowlitz River Basin water supply and stream flow provisions of the 2006 management plan. Current stream flows, estimated population growth, land use, and the needs of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) were carefully considered. The Planning Unit concluded that:

- ❖ Anticipated future water supply needs for nearly 80 percent of river basin should not significantly affect stream flows needed for fish.
- ❖ While anticipated future supply needs in the watersheds of the Lower Cowlitz could potentially have a significant impact on tributary stream flows, more water is available for use than identified in the 2006 plan.
- ❖ The Lower Cowlitz River is capable of supplying a large quantity of water to meet the needs cities, water districts, communities, farms, and homes in the Lower Cowlitz.

Based on these conclusions, the Planning Unit is recommending that:

- ❖ Watersheds in the Cowlitz River Basin above the dams and in the Toutle River Basin be open for future water rights with no additional closures, reservations, or minimum stream flows. No restrictions on additional rural domestic/permit exempt wells are proposed in these areas.
- ❖ The Lower Cowlitz River be open to future water withdrawals and that specified quantities of water be reserved to help meet the needs of cities, communities, homes, and farms in the Lower Cowlitz River Basin.
- ❖ Regional water supply systems drawing on Cowlitz River water be established and maintained as the highest priority to meet municipal and community water needs.
- ❖ Water reserved for rural domestic/permit wells in the tributary watersheds of Lower Cowlitz River Basin be increased to meet revised 20-year water demand estimates, close the tributary watersheds to water withdrawals beyond the reservations, and establish minimum instream flows.
- ❖ Specific provisions for re-examining and, where appropriate, revising water reservations and stream flows to meet the needs of people and fish be adopted.

As with the 2006 management plan, none to the proposed recommendations would affect or impair any existing water right or rural domestic/permit exempt well.

Watershed Plan and other Revision documents are available:

- ✓ [www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us](http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us)
  - ✓ As a CD from LCFRB (see contact information below)
  - ✓ In hardcopy at LCFRB office in Longview by appointment.
- For special accommodations, please contact our office.

What are the next steps?

County Public Meetings

- March 25 Skamania County 5:30-7:00 PM at the Courthouse - 240 NW Vancouver Ave, Stevenson
- April 8 Wahkiakum County, 11:00 AM-Noon at the Courthouse - 64 Main Street, Cathlamet
- April 21 Lewis County, 10:00 AM at the Courthouse - 351 NW North Street, Chehalis
- April 22 Cowlitz County 9:30-10:30 AM, at the Courthouse - 207 N. 4th Avenue, Kelso

Funding for this work is provided through grants from the WA Department of Ecology and the WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board



How can I comment?

For your convenience comment cards are available at the public hearings.

You may also email your comments to [info@lcfrb.gen.wa.us](mailto:info@lcfrb.gen.wa.us)

Comment Deadline: April 30, 2014

Planning Unit Members

Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania & Wahkiakum Counties  
Cities of Castle Rock, Cathlamet, Kelso, Longview, Morton, Mossyrock, Toledo, Vader & Winlock  
Lewis County Citizens: Sherry Brown & Hazelanna McMahan (alternate)  
Cowlitz County Citizens: Trent McGhee, Arne Mortensen & Jim Scott (Alternate)  
Beacon Hill Water & Sewer District  
Chinook Tribe  
Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
Cowlitz Game & Anglers  
Lewis County PUD  
Tacoma Power  
WA Department of Ecology  
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife  
WA Department of Natural Resources  
US Forest Service-Gifford Pinchot

LOWER COLUMBIA FISH RECOVERY BOARD  
2127 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Longview, WA 98632  
360-425-1555  
[info@lcfrb.gen.wa.us](mailto:info@lcfrb.gen.wa.us)



Watershed Planning for the Grays, Elochoman and Cowlitz Watersheds  
Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 25-26

March 2014 Public Review Draft - Factsheet

Why are we planning?

Goal: Ensuring adequate water for the future needs of our communities, homes, businesses, industry and agricultural while protecting flows for salmon and steelhead

The Legislature believes that the protection and use of water is important to the future growth and economies of our communities. With this in mind they established the Watershed Management Act to ensure a local voice in guiding decisions that affect water use and stream flows. In response, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties came together to form a planning group known as a watershed planning unit, bringing together cities, counties, special interest groups and citizens to develop a long-range management plan for the Grays, Elochoman and Cowlitz watersheds. The final plan was adopted by joint resolution of the counties in 2006. The plan addresses water supplies, water quality, stream flows and habitat factors.

Based on the adopted plan, the Washington Department of Ecology drafted an administrative rule to formally reserve water to meet the future needs of communities, homes, businesses, and farms, and to protect stream flows for fish. The public voiced strong concerns that the plan did not adequately or accurately address the future water needs for people and fish. Rulemaking was stopped and the Planning Unit conducted an in depth review of water demand estimates and stream flows and is recommending significant revisions to the watershed plan to address the public's concerns.



As with the 2006 management plan, none of the proposed recommendations would affect or impair any existing water right or rural domestic/permit exempt well.

Watershed planning gives a voice to local interests who have unique knowledge of streams and rivers in their community

Washington's Watershed Management Act

Since 1998 when it became law, more than 40 local planning units have been established throughout the state. Read more about them at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water.html>

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, 2127 - 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Longview, WA 98632  
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